



United Church of Gainesville

NEWSLETTER

WHOEVER YOU ARE, WHEREVER YOU ARE ON LIFE'S JOURNEY, WE WELCOME YOU.

NOVEMBER 2010

Larry Reimer & Sandy

Reimer

Ministers

Andy Bachmann

Associate Minister

Vince Amlin

Associate Minister

Lisa Goldstein

Editor

All Saints

Our Celtic ancestors believed that the veil between heaven and earth becomes wafer thin at this time of year. Come and light a candle in memory of those you love at the **All Saints Service on Wednesday evening, November 3rd**. With candle-lighting and prayers of remembrance, with the opportunity to walk the Labyrinth if you wish, and time to reflect on our journeys of loss and healing, this service offers a bridge into the holiday season as we hold our loved ones dear. Child care is provided from 6:45 to 8:15. You can come between 6:45 and 7:00, and we will conclude by 8pm.

On Sunday, November 7, at both the 9:30 and 11:00 services, we will read the names of those UCG members who died since last All Saints' Day and remember them as we ring the bell and join together in prayer.

Enlistment Update

November is here, and when Steve Goldstein and I revved up our annual enlistment pledge campaign in October we said we wanted to have it all wrapped up with a bow in one month, but alas the power of pledge procrastination is strong, and old habits are hard to break.

As I write this our pledge total is \$415,034. That means we've reached about 61 percent of our goal. When making up our budget this year we expected about 350 of you to turn in pledge cards. To date we've received 224. So if we are a "glass one-third empty" kind of folks, we could fret about all of those pledges we still need. But from the "glass two-thirds full" perspective, we could celebrate how many of you have already pledged and how great it is that there are so many of you out there still waiting to pledge who will help put us over the top.

So, if you have already pledged, we say thank you. If you've been waiting, now is your chance to get us to the finish line.

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Labyrinth in the Sanctuary November 2nd - 4th

See page 2 for times

Daylight Savings Time ends

Sunday,

November 7

Set your clocks back one hour before you go to bed Saturday night.

Oxfam Fast

begins November 17 and ends on November 18th with a shared meal at the church to break the fast. See page 2

Thanksgiving

Dinner at UCG on Thursday, November 25. See page 2.

Advent Begins on Sunday, November 28

In the quiet when the light of the past
Falling from the high stars yet haunts the earth,
I think of those I love – dear men and women no longer with us –
And not just in grief or regret, but rather
With a love that is almost joy, I think of them. ~ *John Hall Wheelock*



What's Happening in November ²

- ❖ **Art in the Library** - This month features the photography of UCG member Joanne Pohlman. The photos were taken during a three week visit she and her husband Richard made to China. They traveled with a small group through the Road Scholar organization. Cities visited included Beijing, Shanghai, Luoyang, Chengdu and Xian. Travel to rural areas in southwestern China highlighted the economic and technological contrasts still present in this fast developing country. **Please join her for a reception on Sunday, November 7th at 10:30am.**
- ❖ **Parents Night Out - Friday, November 12- 5:30-8:30pm** in the Church School Wing. Need a night out? PNO is for parents of babies through 5th graders. The kids go to the UCG church school wing where they eat pizza, play games and have fun with their friends and our child care staff. The cost is \$10 for the first child and \$5 for each additional child. RSVPs are required **by Tuesday, November 9** to alysonm@ucgainesville.org. Pizza and apple wedges and drinks are provided. *Due to life-threatening food allergies, we ask that no outside food be brought in.
- ❖ **Visitor's Lunch - Sunday, November 14** - If you've been visiting and would like to get to know more about UCG, come to a visitors lunch Sunday, November 14, at 12:15 in the Fellowship Hall. Larry, Sandy and Vince will be there to answer questions. The lunch is free. Child care is provided, but we must know if you need it. Please sign up on the church bulletin board or call the church office.
- ❖ **Annual Oxfam Fast for World Hunger - Wednesday, November 17 and Thursday, November 18** - When faced with the realities of global poverty, hunger and social injustice, how often have you thought, "How can just one person make a difference?" Through Oxfam America's national ACT Fast we at UCG can have an impact on these issues. Through this annual fund raiser to support Oxfam America's work, we donate money to programs fostering self-reliance and community leadership helping people overcome the root causes of poverty. Our UCG fast (however known) begins after lunch on November 17th. We gather to break the fast at **6:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 18th** in the Fellowship Hall, when you may contribute the money you saved on food to Oxfam America. Your observance of the fast is up to you; partial fasting, skipping a meal, giving up snacks, or total abstinence. All age groups may participate, including children. On November 7th and 14th, there will be a sign-up table in the courtyard. You may sign up to bring soup, salad, bread, juice, or fruit. Please bring your own bowls, plates, cups, and utensils. Childcare and a light supper of pizza and fruit will be provided for from 6 to 8 p.m. Please sign up if you need childcare. If you are unable to attend but would like to contribute, drop off or mail your funds to the church. Make checks payable to UCG and designate it for OXFAM.
- ❖ **Football Parking on Gator Home-Game Days: November 13th- ONA Taskforce**
November 20th- Retreat Scholarship
UCG's **Retreat Scholarship Fund** provides financial assistance to UCG members in attending our **annual Retreat**. - If you've ever been a recipient or if you are proud that we can offer this assistance, we'd love to have your help in raising money for our scholarship fund by parking cars for the UF-Appalachian State football game on Saturday, November 20. Sign up for a two-hour stint that day and give the gift of the Retreat to a UCG member. E-mail Cathy at cathykeathley@gmail.com or phone at 352-278-1065.
- ❖ **Thursday, November 27 - UCG Thanksgiving Dinner at 1:30pm**- Thanksgiving is right around the corner, and there's nothing like a great meal with all the fixin's right here at UCG. Why spend all day in the kitchen when you can bring one dish, and relax with your friends in the Fellowship Hall? The modest price covers the cost of turkey, beverages, ice, etc. Cost will be \$5 for those 12 years and up, \$3 for ages 5-11 years old, and free for children under 5. Sign up starts on Sunday, November 7. Kitty Williams has agreed to coordinate this event. **She needs volunteers for the following tasks:** Sign-up on Sunday mornings, Set up at about noon on Thanksgiving, Take down and cleanup after the meal, Turkey roasting (cost reimbursed). If you can help, please call Kitty at work (392-7369) or email her at krw@chem.ufl.edu.

Upcoming Holiday Events

Lessons and Carols Update: Lessons and Carols rehearsals started on October 28 with the Kick-Off lunch followed by the first of the sectional rehearsals on October 31. If you were unable to attend these first two practices, it is not too late to participate. An attendance policy is in effect requesting no more than 3 absences; if more than 3 absences are accrued, participation is dependent on approval from the choir director, Tané DeKrey. With prior request, child care can be provided. We hope to see you as we have fun while deepening the celebration of Advent.

<u>Sunday</u>	<u>Thursday</u>
Nov 7 - Noon	Nov. 4- 7:15pm
14 - Noon	11 - 7:15pm
21 - Noon	18 - 7:15pm
28 - Noon	25 - No Rehearsal- Thanksgiving
Dec. 5 - Noon	Dec 2 - 7:15pm
	9 - 7:15pm

The final rehearsal will be held on Saturday, Dec. 11 from 9:00 to 12:00. The worship services are on Dec. 12 at 11:00am and 7:00pm.

Lessons and Carols Reception - We look forward to our festive **holiday reception following the evening Lessons and Carols service** on Sunday, December 12. We need five volunteers to make this event happen. Email Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org if you are willing to help.

UCG Supper Club Holiday Dinner - Saturday, Dec. 4, 6:30 pm - Red & White Holiday - We'll gather on Saturday, Dec. 4 at 6:30pm for a Red & White holiday-themed dinner of stuffed pork loin with apple butter, as well as salad, potato puree and dessert. We meet in groups of 8 or so in people's homes to enjoy the meal and each other's company. Recipes are provided for diners to use in preparing the dishes, and the costs of food and wine are shared equally. Singles and couples are welcome. Please contact Pat Atkins (335-4872, patkins1@gmail.com) by Monday, November 22 to sign up or to ask for more information. Let her know if you can host one of the dinner groups.

It's time to start planning this year's Winter Party

Doug Kiker has generously volunteered to coordinate this year's Winter Party. We are looking for a group of people who like to host, to decorate, to do graphic art for tickets, to serve refreshments and beverages and to help find a great band so that we can fest and boogie into the night. We will be meeting a few times prior to the event, planned in January. We have wonderful information from prior years that will help make our job easier. Just say you will be part of the team that hosts one of the best gatherings of the year. Our first meeting will be Sunday, November 14th at 12:15. Sign-up to help outside the office or email Doug at dpkiker@gmail.com.

Community Note

UCG Member Betsy Stechmiller is available to assist elders with laundry, cooking, groceries, errands, ambulatory personal care and general sitting, day and night. For more information you can reach her at 377-6949

The Seventh Trumpet



The new theme, “A Month of Living ...ly” actually began on October 31 and continues through November 21. It will be a series of surprises. In the spring when we ministers brainstorm themes, we often look at trends of best selling books. We noticed a number of recent books in which the author took a certain life path and followed it for a year. There was A Year of Living Biblically, which actually could have been more accurately entitled, A Year of Living by Biblical Literalism in which A.J. Jacobs tried to abide by as many Jewish and Christian laws and principles as possible. Barbara Kingsolver and her family spent a year eating locally in Animal, Vegetable, Miracle, and Barbara Ehrenreich attempted to live a year on minimum wage in Nickel and Dimed, to name just a few. They all had rather remarkable discoveries.

So Andy, Sandy, Vince, and I each spent the month of October with a semi-undercover spiritual practice. You can get a hint of these practices from our sermon titles, but the titles only touch the surface of what we experienced in *Notre exploration spirituelle* (that’s “our spiritual exploration” – I looked it up on “Google Translate”). Changing the framework of a spiritual practice and then waiting to see how a change in attitude or faith follows is an interesting experience. We look forward to sharing it with you. Advent, the four Sundays that prepare for Christmas begins on November 28 with the theme, “The Gift of Wonder.” A lot changes in November.

Evangelically yours,
Larry

General Synod of the National United Church of Christ in Tampa this summer

Florida is quite honored to host the national gathering of the United Church of Christ this summer, July 1-5 in Tampa. Synod is an exciting mix of worship, workshops, and policy making. The national church is asking for volunteers from Florida churches to help staff the event. UCG’s Mary Nutter is on the planning committee for the event, and we’ll be hearing more details from her as they arise.

In the mean time, we would like UCG folks to focus on helping with events primarily on Saturday, July 2. That is Sun Coast welcome day with speakers that might even include Michelle Obama. If you wish to come a little earlier, you may also volunteer to help usher etc., at the Friday evening worship service. This would allow all of us to be back for UCG’s evening July 4 Sunday service and ice cream social on July 3. To volunteer go to http://www.uccfla.org/uccfla/General_Synod_2011.html. We’d like to caravan down there together as much as possible.

There’s one hitch. To attend, one must register. If one volunteers for four hours, the registration fee is reduced to \$100, a fraction of the full synod registration price. If you want to volunteer but need help financially, talk to me. I attended two General Synods a number of years ago, and they are quite exciting events, in the genre’ of say the Democratic National Convention or maybe a drugless, fully clothed, indoors, progressive Christian Woodstock being exciting.

Larry

Welcome to Our Newest Members

Jess Archer, Renee Andrews, Marvin Berk, Helen Berk, Nitya Bernstein, Gita Buchanan, Mary Ellen Drummond, Evan Drummond, Wendy Edmonds, Gary Heil, Anna Heineman, Grace Kang, Rachel Khong, Jenny Land, Eric Lestrom, Christina Nichol, Hannah Norton, Andrew Ragsdale, Jill Ragsdale, Winny Ruffino, Laurie Scullin, Sarah Sheldon, Herbert Swilley, Gene Wakefield and Marthe Walters

THRESHOLDS

... SANDY REIMER

During the first week of November, the week of All Saints Day, I encourage you to take some time to remember and honor your loved ones who have died. The All Saint's service on Wednesday evening, November 3, the Labyrinth on November 2, 3, and 4th, and the worship services on Sunday, November 7 are all good opportunities. At an adult seminar last November, we reflected on the journey of grief and loss and we shared ways of remembrance. Some of those suggestions were: to light a candle and intentionally remember that person's gifts and memories of good times; to call or talk with someone who knew your loved one and share memories; to host a potluck dinner on All Saints Day with people who would like to share stories of their dear ones who have died; to focus on a Thanksgiving or Christmas season tradition that included a loved one and bring that tradition into holiday celebrations; to plant a bush or tree; to make a donation or take a Christmas angel off the UCG tree in their honor. As you hold in your heart the saints of your life, remember those beautiful words of St. John Chrysostom, "Those whom we love and lose are no longer where they were before. They are now wherever we are."

Advent begins on Sunday, November 28 at the end of Thanksgiving week-end. The Advent season marks the four Sundays prior to Christmas, and our UCG rituals and traditions are rich, diverse and meaningful. I hope you will find specific ways to participate in the preparations, the worship, the music, the crafts, the sharing, and the giving as we celebrate the gifts of wonder and faith that shine in this season. **Adult Advent Reflection booklets and Family Advent Reflection booklets** will be available in the Sanctuary foyer beginning Sunday, November 28th. And we will light the first candle of the Advent wreath at each service that Sunday.

John Aurelio, a Catholic priest, said, *A good moment is a taste of God.* In the weeks ahead, in Thanksgiving and in your Advent journey, I wish for you the blessings of good moments that are filled with the taste of the holy in your life.

WALKING THE LABYRINTH

in the Sanctuary, Tuesday, November 2 - Thursday, November 4

The Labyrinth is an ancient circular walk with a single pathway which leads you to the center and back out again. Walking paths for meditation and prayer in the shape of the Labyrinth have been used for centuries on virtually every inhabited continent. Our Labyrinth, which comes to us through the generosity of Ted Runions and Diane Farris, is a replica of the labyrinth into the medieval cathedral in Chartres, France. To walk the Labyrinth is to take a journey to your own spiritual center and then back out into the world. The Labyrinth will be open:

Tuesday, Nov. 2 from 11am to 8pm

Wednesday, Nov. 3 from 8am to 6:45pm

as part of the All Saint's Service, Wednesday, Nov. 3 from 6:45 to 8:00pm

Thursday, Nov. 4 from 8am to 8pm

PASSAGES

- ❖ We are saddened by the death of UCG member Jerry Young who died on Friday, October 22 after suffering a stroke. We surround his wife Linda with love and prayers.

NOVEMBER NOTATIONS: A MESSAGE FROM ANDY

November is a month that I love. First off, it has my favorite American Holy Day, Thanksgiving. I can't think of a better reason for a holiday than to gather around a table of plenty and to simply give thanks for the blessings we have received.

But coupled with Thanksgiving, we as a spiritual community take pause the week prior and celebrate that which we are thankful for in a very different way. We fast. And the money we "save" from the food we don't eat, we donate to Oxfam; a wonderful and worthwhile organization that is working hard in those hard to reach places, bringing hope, health and love to our neighbors in need. There is something special about that Oxfam supper; especially if you can do the whole fast. That communion bread never tasted so nourishing. That wine never brought so much awareness. It is a good thing to take part in, and I hope that you will join us this November 18th. (More in the Outreach section of the newsletter.)

Coupled with our Oxfam fundraiser this month, we are taking a more personal look at the ways we feed and care for the hungry right here in Gainesville. Social Justice and CIA are hosting a seminar on November 7th, where three local activists will share how they are working to provide healthy food for hungry people right here in Gainesville. They will be able to suggest a few ways that YOU can get involved in the revolution, too.

I'm also REALLY excited for the Mystery Trip that Youth United will be heading out for on November 13th. For those of you unaware of what Mystery Trip is, here's the nutshell. YU gathers in the parking lot with packed bags and a lot of questions. We load them up in vans and take off for the weekend. They have no idea where we are going, or what we will be doing next. A few things are guaranteed, though. We always do some form of service, we always travel a decent distance away from Gainesville, and we always have a blast. Think of us the weekend of the 13th!

MSG is also moving into the land of mystery, as Casey, Elisa and our wonderful new addition to the MSG Team, Emily Ott help to craft and create a new identity for MSG. T-shirts are on the horizon, with who knows what on the front and back. Last year is was a Godzilla like monster and a cereal label. Can't wait to see what they have in store for us this year.

OK. Lots going on. I hope YOU take full advantage of the great ways to get involved this month!

COMING UP IN NOVEMBER

MSG - (Middle School Group)

- Nov. 7-** T-Shirt design and possible Kickball game!
- Nov. 14-** Poverty and Oxfam discussion, with Casey Kumar and Emily Ott
- Nov. 21-** Thanksgiving Craft
- Nov. 28-** no group; Thanksgiving!

YU - (Youth United)

- Nov. 7 - 5:30-7 pm** - Hangin' with Vince! Join us as Vince Amlin comes to share some of his insights into how we can make the most of the good book (the Bible).
 - Nov. 12 -14** - Gather at 6 pm for the Mystery Trip! We'll return to UCG by 5 pm on Sunday. Get psyched!
 - Nov. 21 - 5:30-7pm** - Thankfulness and Gratitude; a Labyrinth walking meditation.
-

IN VINNY VERITAS

VINCE AMLIN

We have been taking turns this fall answering your questions from “Ask the Pastor” Sunday, and November is my month. Here’s the question I chose:

“How do you allow a church to grow by welcoming everyone and yet keep the close and personal atmosphere?” - Female, 70s

This is a very important question and one which makes sense to address a month after we welcomed 25 new members (and 2 returning ones) into our community. UCG continues to grow as more and more people find out about this special place. Yet part of what makes us special is the energetic involvement of our membership in all areas of our ministry and the warm community which comes from knowing the people with whom we worship and serve.

For this reason the congregation named “Connections” as its number one priority in our last three-year plan. The priority included two goals: 1) “to develop a system of connections that ultimately addresses every member of the church” and 2) “to develop a plan to strengthen and expand our system for integrating new members.” As a congregation we have worked hard on both of these goals, and have had a great deal of success. We have strengthened our small groups program; we’ve instituted a new members’ group to help joining members become better integrated into the congregation; and we’ve convened round table discussions to identify underserved groups at UCG.

While these increased opportunities for connection are important for maintaining that “close and personal atmosphere,” the most important actions to help us “grow smaller” even as we grow larger, are the ones that each of us take as individuals. Here are a few examples:

- ❖ **Wear your nametag.** With over 700 members and lots of visitors, none of us knows everyone, not even your ministers. If you’ve lost all your replacements just let us know. You’re not alone.
- ❖ **Greet someone new at coffee time.** Each week we ask our visitors to stand and be recognized so that we are able to greet them after the service, and even long-time members may need an invitation to join your conversation in the courtyard. Look around you for those who are standing by themselves and show them hospitality.
- ❖ **Sign-up for a small group.** Small groups are a great way to meet people with similar interests, and if you don’t see a group that meets your needs, you can help start a new one.
- ❖ **Volunteer for an Outreach opportunity.** There is nothing like having common work to ease awkwardness and build connection.
- ❖ **Join a board or committee.** Follow your passion. Monthly meetings mean guaranteed connections.
- ❖ **Commit.** Whether it’s small groups, outreach, or committee work, showing up is the first step to making connections happen. Be realistic about what you can do, and follow through.

Small Group Committee Forming and Spring Small Group Ideas Needed

Our Winter/ Spring semester of small groups are right around the corner. **We are looking for a team of 3-4 people to work with Vince to plan small groups for Spring and Fall 2011.** UCG offers over 20 small groups each semester on a wide variety of topics. This group will help to recruit leaders and evaluate the balance and success of our small groups program. We will meet 4 times a year with most of our work concentrated in November/ December and May/ June as we create the small groups brochure for the coming semester. Contact Vince Amlin for more information or to volunteer.

Sign-ups for groups will take place throughout January with groups happening anytime between February and June. Small groups can range from one-time fellowship opportunities to long-term support groups or spiritual exploration and take place at the church, in homes, and around Gainesville. **If you have an idea for a group you would like to lead, contact Vince Amlin at vincea@ucgainesville.org.**

~ A Little Child Shall Lead Them ~
 UCG Children's Program ~ Director, Heidi Stein

I am so impressed with the rummage sale committee, their commitment to their vision, and the way they bring it all together. It is truly fun to be together, clearing out our homes, recycling, and using the money for good in the world. For those of you who don't know, money from the sale goes for improvements to the playground, Tribal Camp, outreach projects that benefit women and children, and our custodian Ken Bradley's annuity fund. I personally want to thank each person that contributed your time, items, and service.

Where's the adventure?

Every year each class of United Tribes plans an adventure as a group to do outside of their regular class time. This year the K-1 class will be meeting at Ring Park to learn about water and enjoy the great outdoors, the 2-3 class will be taking a canoe trip, and the 4-5th grade class will have a camp out. Should be fun for all.

Who's directing?

The United Tribes will again perform their Annual Family Christmas Pageant at both services on December 5. Shanna Johnson will again be directing this fun, participatory event. This is Shanna's final year as pageant director. It has been such a blessing to have her joyous heart lead our children in this event. We will truly miss her. Shay Hudleston has graciously agreed to direct next year's performance and will work with Shanna this year to learn how she makes the magic happen.



Schedule

10-31-10	Halloween Wear Your Costumes to Church Lessons and Carols Practice Begins
11-07-10	Pageant Preparations – Make costumes get parts.
11-14-09	Children's Choir Practice.
11-21-09	Pageant Rehearsal
11-28-09	No Tribes -Thanksgiving Break
12-5-09	Christmas Pageant
12-12-10	Christmas Craft Fair Lessons and Carols

Sixth Annual Family Christmas Pageant
Sunday, December 5th at the 9:30 and 11:00 Worship Services

Time to get geared up for the 6th Annual UCG All-Family Christmas Pageant! Here are some important dates to keep in mind:

- ❖ Nov. 7th - Making the Pageant Costumes (for Pre- thru 3rd) and assigning the major parts (for 4-5)
- ❖ Nov. 14th - Practicing songs with Naomi Whiteley
- ❖ Nov. 21 - Pageant Practice
- ❖ Dec. 5th - Pageant Day!!! We are performing the Pageant at the 9:30 and 11:00am services.

After the 11:00, children and families may leave when the pageant ends and enjoy the Annual Chili Lunch in the Fellowship Hall!

If you would like to help in anyway, you can email Shanna Johnson at butterbean1016@gmail.com, or call her at 352-222-6825.

Sundays in November

REGULAR SUNDAY SCHEDULE

9:15 - 12:15	Nursery & Toddler Care
9:30	Worship with Children's Story
9:45 - 10:45	United Tribes - after the children's story
10:30	Fellowship Time
10:45 - noon	Children's Activity Time
11:00 - noon	Worship; Adult Seminars; Middle School Group
12:15	College Ministry

Worship Theme: "A Month of Living...."

Sunday, November 7 - Daylight Savings Time Ends

8:30— Meditation in the Chapel with Ann Gill

9:30 - "Justice" Seminar

9:30 & 11:00 - "A Month of Living Prayerfully," Sandy Reimer. Both services will include a remembrance of UCG members who died this year.

11:00 – Adult Seminar

Helping the Hungry Eat Healthy - Our Social Justice and Compassion in Action committees invite you to the seminar, "Helping the Hungry Eat Healthy." Offered in light of our upcoming Oxfam fundraiser and break-fast feast, we will have three guest speakers; UCG member Leslie McLendon will speak about a local gleaning project, where gardeners bring excess fruits and vegetables to local food pantries to be distributed to the hungry. UCG member Reisa George will share about the Food 4 Kids program at Duval Elementary, and how, thanks to the generous donations of so many, we have increased the quality of the foods being distributed. Additionally, Johnny Zokovitch, director of the local Catholic Worker House and host of "Dorothy's Café" will share how they provide vegetarian soups and stews in a care-filled and conscientious manner.

11:00 - Friendship Group

12:00 - Lessons & Carols rehearsal

12:15 - Middle School & High School Teams

IHN Committee

5:30pm - Youth United

Sunday, November 14 - LifeSouth Blood Drive

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with Mary Fukuyama

9:30 - "Justice" Seminar

9:30 & 11:00 - "A Month of Living Evangelically," Larry Reimer.

11:00 – Adult Seminars

Plum Village and Taize Revealed with Mary Fukuyama and Kaydie Vistelle - Imagine singing Taize songs in a worship service with over 2,000 voices. Imagine eating a fresh vegan lunch in silence with Buddhist monks and nuns. Imagine meeting people from all over Europe who are spiritual seekers. Imagine walking the original labyrinth in a gothic cathedral. Come see pictures and hear about our recent travels in France to Chartres, Taize and Plum Village.

Family Team Building - This fun, interactive workshop is for family members age 6 and up. Doing things as a team is not only more fun but also gets things done faster. Creating team work can take the drudgery out of the mundane and can create a feeling of connectedness within the family. The workshop will be led by Heather Remer and Kathryn Kvolts

11:00 Bible Challenge*

12:00 - Lessons and Carols Sectionals

12:15 - Visitor's Lunch

2:30 - Sunday at the Movies*

continued next page...

Sunday's Cont'd

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Sunday, November 21

8:30am—Meditation in the Chapel with David Hackett

9:30 & 11:00 - “A Month of Living Non-violently,” Vince Amlin.

9:30 - “Justice” Seminar

11:00 - Adult Seminar

Caring, Assertive Communication - Communication and Mis-communication affect every part of our daily lives. Good relationships with our partner, family, and co-workers are reliant upon clear and effective communication. This seminar is designed to explore ways we communicate, present effective strategies and techniques for communication, and allow participants time to practice these skills with each other. We will be incorporating techniques from NVC (Non-violent Communication). The majority of the seminar will be experiential and request participation.

11:00 - Friendship Group

12:00 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

12:00 - Friends Over 50*

7:30 - Crystal Bowl Meditation with Cindy Bergbower in the Sanctuary

First Sunday in Advent, November 28

Worship Theme: Advent - The Gift of Wonder

8:30 - Meditation in the Chapel with Darrell Hartman

9:30 - “Justice” Seminar

9:30 & 11:00—“Patience and the Blue Screen in the Back of The Mini Van ,” Larry Reimer. Both services will include lighting the first candle of our Advent Wreath and Communion. Adult Advent Daily Reflection booklets and Family Advent Booklets will be available in the foyer.

11:00 - Adult Seminar

Poverty, Money, and Love, a TED talk with Erick Smith - What do you think of people in poverty? Maybe what Jessica Jackley once did: "they" need "our" help, in the form of a few coins in a jar. The co-founder of Kiva.org talks about how her attitude changed -- and how her work with microloans has brought new power to people who live on a few dollars a day. A TED talk with Jessica Jackley followed by our own group discussion.

12:00 - Lessons and Carols Rehearsal

Upcoming Outreach Events from CIA

Christmas Angels: As the holiday season approaches, you will have the opportunity to be a Christmas angel by purchasing a gift for a child who might not otherwise receive a present. This year we have the privilege of helping Duval Elementary School make sure their 4th & 5th graders receive Christmas presents. Paper angels will be hanging on a Christmas tree in the foyer on November 28th and December 5th. Please take an angel from the tree and shop for their special gift. Attach the angel to your wrapped gift and place it underneath the Christmas tree by December 12th. **There will also be socks to fill to brighten the Holidays of the homeless people in Gainesville.** Each pair will contain a short list of “stocking stuffers” you may consider for filling the sock. Please place the filled socks under the tree by December 12th.

Mini-Grants: The CIA committee is soliciting requests for Christmas Mini Grants. These small grants are typically for \$50-\$200 in support of people or causes that are in need of financial assistance during the holiday season. Most grants go to local individuals and families who have been identified by church members and official friends through work or outreach-type volunteer activities. Some allocations go to local outreach projects in need of funds (e.g. the home van outreach to homeless people.) The request forms are available in the church office and **the deadline to submit a request is Sunday, December 5th.** This will allow us to get the money to the recipients prior to Christmas. Awards are made based on the availability of funds and the merits of the request

NOVEMBER 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	<i>1</i>	<i>2</i> ONA 6pm BAP 7pm	<i>3</i> Council Exec 12pm All Saints Service 7pm	<i>4</i> BPM 5:30pm BCM 7:15pm Revelation Study* 7pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	<i>5</i> Lunch Groups 12pm	<i>6</i> Men's Overnight to Camp Montgomery
<i>7</i> Daylight Savings Time ends Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 Friendship Group 11am L&C rehearsal 12pm MS/HS Team 12:15p IHN Comm. 12:15 YU 5:30pm	<i>8</i>	<i>9</i> Budget Summit 1:30pm SJC 6:30pm CIA 7pm BOB 7:15pm	<i>10</i> CMRB 12pm BOM 6:30pm Dream Group Trish Peterson* 7pm	<i>11</i> Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	<i>12</i> Lunch Groups 12pm YU Mystery Trip departs Parent's Night Out 5:30-8:30pm Dances of Universal Peace 7:30pm	<i>13</i> Gators vs South Carolina Hawthorne Trail Bike Ride 9am
<i>14</i> Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 LifeSouth Blood Drive Bible Challenge *11am Visitor's Lunch 12:15pm L&C reh. 12pm Sunday Movies*2:30pm	<i>15</i> 3rd Monday Project* 7:30pm	<i>16</i> Alzheimer/Dementia Support 7pm	<i>17</i> Newsletter Deadline- Noon OXFAM fast begins Church Council 5:30pm Dream Group Trish Peterson* 7pm	<i>18</i> OXFAM Dinner 6pm Lessons & Carols rehearsal 7:15pm	<i>19</i> Lunch Groups 12pm	<i>20</i> Birding on Paynes Prairie* Gators vs Appalachian State
<i>21</i> Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11 L&C reh. 12pm Friendship Group 11am Friends Over 50* 12pm YU 5:30pm Crystal Bowl Meditation 7:30pm	<i>22</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i> Office Closed Happy Thanksgiving UCG Thanksgiving Dinner 1:30pm	<i>26</i> Office Closed No Lunch Groups	<i>27</i> Gators vs FSU
<i>28</i> Advent Begins Meditation 8:30am Worship 9:30 & 11am L&C rehearsal 12pm	<i>29</i> Contemplative Prayer*6:30pm	<i>30</i> <i>* A Pre-registered Adult Small Group</i>				

UNITED CHURCH OF
GAINESVILLE

1624 NW 5th Avenue
Gainesville, FL 32603

Phone: 352-378-3500

Fax: 352-378-0501

E-mail: info@ucgainesville.org

Hours: Monday- Friday

8:30am - 4:30pm

www.ucgainesville.org

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DECEMBER NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 17

LOOKING AHEAD AT THE UNITED CHURCH OF GAINESVILLE:

- ❖ **Sunday, December 5** – Our children will present their Christmas pageant during the second part of the 9:30 service and again as the first part of the 11:00 service. The Duvall Elementary school choir will sing at both services. Our adult choir will sing a Lessons and Carols preview anthem at the 11:00 service. And in the midst of all this, Sandy Reimer will offer a reflection on “The Gift of Wonder” in Advent. The Annual Chili Lunch and Decoration of the Sanctuary and Courtyard also take place this day.
- ❖ **Sunday, December 12** – Children’s Christmas Craft Fair at 9:30. Services of Nine Lessons and Carols at 11am and 7pm. A reception follows the evening service.
- ❖ **Sunday, December 19** – Andy Bachmann’s annual Advent poem and the All Church Band at the 9:30 and 11:00 services.
- ❖ **Friday, December 24** – Christmas Eve Services at 6:30, 8:00 and 10:30pm
- ❖ **Sunday, December 26** – One service at 9:30am led by the Board of Parish Ministry
- ❖ **Sunday, January 2** – Epiphany – 9:30 and 11:00 services – Vince Amlin preaching
- ❖ **Sunday, January 9** – Registration for the Women’s Overnight which is February 5 and 6, 2011

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